



PROGRESS REPORT NO. 15

TO: Kevin Rochlin – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 10 (R10) - via Email
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CC: David Godlewski – TCAI (via Email)
Bruce Duncan – EPA, R10 (via Email)
David Charters – EPA, Headquarters (via Email)
Lucinda Jacobs – TCAI Technical Team (via Email)

DATE: October 10, 2007

FILE NO: 1-773180-000

RE: Upper Columbia River (UCR) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) - Progress Report No. 15 Month Ending September 2007

Pursuant to Paragraph 39 of the June 2, 2006 Settlement Agreement (Agreement), the following is intended to provide a summary of the activities completed during the past month in compliance with the aforementioned Agreement. It is also intended to provide a brief summary of pending and on-going activities.

Pursuant to Paragraph 9 of Section IV of the Agreement, a revised RI/FS work plan was submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for final review and approval on September 21, 2007. As outlined within Progress Report No. 14, in addition to providing hard copies and associated compact discs (CDs) to the respective project managers¹, an electronic version of the revised RI/FS work plan was posted on the secure domain of the project website for all reviewers on the due date. All subsequent hard copies and CDs, per the document distribution list,² were delivered within 14 calendar days.

¹ Hard copies and associated CDs were submitted to the following project managers on September 21, 2007: Mr. Kevin Rochlin (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10), Mr. John Roland (State of Washington, Department of Ecology), Mr. Dan Audet (Department of Interior, National Park Service), Ms. Patti Bailey (Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation), and Mr. Randall Connolly (Spokane Tribe of Indians).

² A copy of the document distribution list is presented within a letter dated September 12, 2007 from TCAI to the EPA.

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In addition to the above-mentioned, a summary of the procedures and results of the screening level ecological risk assessment (SLERA) were also posted on the secure domain of the project website on October 3, 2007. An on-line GoToMeeting™ will be conducted on October 10, 2007 from 12:00 – 3:00 PM Pacific Time (PT) to review the SLERA and discuss key elements of the revised RI/FS work plan. Based on an initial review of the revised RI/FS work plan, the following clarification questions have been identified and provided by EPA.

- 1) Study rationale and prioritization are presented in several chapters. Please clarify how the Work Plan and SLERA takes into account the CSM and data gaps in determining study needs and sequencing.
- 2) “Regarding Figure 7-4, please clarify how the items in Data Gaps and BERA WP were determined.
- 3) What DQOs were viewed as most critical by TCAI in directing the development of data needs and data gaps? The discussion in Section 5 does not lead to a clear understanding of the prioritization of, and rationale for, the "primary questions" that have been presented in Section 8.
- 4) In development of the proposed 2007/2008 studies, does TCAI believe that these pre-BERA studies will provide a reasonably complete and comprehensive assessment of contaminant nature and extent, and associated fate and transport processes, an early understanding of which is viewed as essential to the RI/FS process?
- 5) Specifically how will TCAI coordinate with the Sturgeon Recovery Team to develop specific sturgeon-related studies that address specific RI/FS data needs, and how will the participating parties be involved in that process?
- 6) Does TCAI intend to establish baseline sampling programs for surface water, sediment, etc that will support an understanding of temporal changes in COI concentrations and/or loading, and provide a basis for long-term monitoring to support data needs during later stages of the RI/FS process?
- 7) Under the currently proposed schedule, multiple SAPs will have to be developed and reviewed during a relatively short timeframe. How does TCAI plan to manage, coordinate and facilitate the process of developing multiple SAPs in a way that ensures adequate opportunity for substantive input, dialogue and discussion of DQOs, data needs, and optimal sampling design?
- 8) Given the number of field studies planned for 2008, and the requirement to have approved QAPPs and approval of all ground disturbing locations with the Historic Preservation Officers, please clarify the project schedule detailing the steps to be taken to achieve the desired field mobilization dates.
- 9) The rationale for prioritization of field studies is unclear. Please describe the rationale for why the proposed 2008 studies have been prioritized over other studies discussed in the work plan. Also, can you please clarify how the results of the SLERA will feed into the planned 2008-2009 studies?

- 10) It is unclear how the list of proposed COIs for the studies described in Section 8 have been derived, and how these address Trail operations and historic releases. Please describe the rationale for why the proposed COIs are known to be complete and will not overlook or "miss" any other potential COIs.
- 11) Please clarify how Trail discharge data was utilized to determine COPCs for the UCR RI/FS.
- 12) Please clarify how the schedule will be revised to reflect agency review periods and "straw" proposal discussions, as well as access and permitting timeframes.
- 13) Please clarify the scientific process by which you deduced next steps (i.e., data gaps evaluation).

The above-listed clarifying questions will be addressed during the October 10, 2007 in anticipation of approving the RI/FS work plan in the near future.

As outlined within Progress Report No. 14, it is anticipated that additional on-line GoToMeetings™ to present and discuss 1) the surface water "straw man" proposal and 2) the beach sediment and floodplain soil sampling "straw man" proposal will be conducted in the two coming months. At the time of writing however, no dates have been confirmed.

A summary of activities (e.g., deliverables) completed to date, and those anticipated within in the near future, are presented within Table 1 below.

Table 1. Upper Columbia River Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Summary of On-Going and Planned Activities

Task No.	Task Description	Status	Issues	Estimated Completion Date ¹
1.	2005 Field Data Transfer	Complete	None to report at this time	<u>July 31, 2006</u>
2.	Technical Memorandum ² .	Complete	None to report at this time	<u>October 27, 2006</u>
3.	Draft RI/FS Work Plan	Complete	None to report at this time	<u>December 28, 2006</u>
4.	Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) ³	Complete	None to report at this time	<u>February 26, 2007</u>
5.	Health and Safety Plan	Complete	None to report at this time	<u>February 26, 2007</u>
6.	Cultural Resources Coordination Plan	Complete	None to report at this time	<u>February 26, 2007</u>
7.	Revised RMAO Memorandum ⁴ .	Complete	None to report at this time	<u>March 11, 2007</u>
8.	Additional Trail Data	Complete	None to report at this time	<u>May 6, 2007</u> ⁵
9.	April Workshop Summary	Complete	None to report at this time	<u>July 12, 2007</u>
10.	Revised RI/FS Work Plan	Complete	None to report at this time	<u>September 21, 2007</u>
11.	Screening Level ERA	On-Going	None to report at this time	TBD ⁶ .
12.	Surface Water SAP	On-Going	None to report at this time	TBD ⁶ .

Notes:

1. Dates that have been underlined represent the actual day that the respective deliverable was submitted to EPA as per Paragraph 80 of the Agreement.
2. As outlined within the Agreement, the technical memorandum outlines and described the Risk-Based Remedial Objectives for the Ecological Risk Assessment. Remedial objectives for the protection of human health will be prepared by EPA and submitted under separate cover at a later date.
3. The SAP submitted in fulfillment of Paragraph 13 of the Agreement was the *2007 Sediment Investigation of Beaches and Depositional Areas*.
4. The draft technical memorandum on risk-based management action objectives (RMAOs) was revised per EPA's January 16, 2007 comments.
5. Following a request outlined by EPA in a letter dated February 1, 2007 (received on February 5, 2007) TCAI has compiled additional information on the Trail Facility so as to assist in the identification of chemicals of concern (COIs) as outlined within Paragraph 24 of the Agreement. An electronic version of the deliverable was forwarded to EPA on May 6, 2007 with hard copies delivered shortly thereafter. In addition, a second deliverable identified as "*Business Confidential*" information was submitted to EPA legal counsel under separate cover on May 7, 2007 by Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman (i.e., TCAI legal counsel) on behalf of TCAI.
6. It is anticipated that the screening level ecological risk assessment (SLERA) and surface water sampling and analysis plan (SAP) will be submitted in October 2007 but an exact date for these documents has not yet been determined and may depend on the level of feedback received from EPA following on-line meetings/presentations using GoToMeeting™. The on-line GoToMeeting™ to discuss the SLERA will be conducted on October 10, 2007.
7. ERA = Ecological Risk Assessment
SAP = Sampling & Analysis
TBD = To Be Determined

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 509-892-2585.